

Shoshone basin
Cooperative Weed management area



(Re-vegetation project at Duck Springs)

End of year report

2003

twin falls, idaho

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Introduction

The Shoshone Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area was established in January 2000. The purpose of the group is to prevent, contain, control, and eradicate noxious and non-native invasive plants on private and public lands. The SBCWMA continues to build cooperative relationships between agencies, landowners, and other interested parties. This year we were able to enlarge the boundaries of the CWMA to include all property from the Snake River Canyon south to the Nevada border and from Salmon Falls Creek east to the Cassia County Line.

Success of this effort would not be possible without motivated landowners and dedicated agency representatives. The SBCWMA encompasses approximately **785,010** acres in Twin Falls County. Agriculture is a major land use in the management area. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, sightseeing, camping, skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking.

The group has earmarked eleven weed species as priority weeds: Russian knapweed, Hoary cress, Spotted knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Musk thistle, Scotch thistle, Poison hemlock, Black henbane, Canada thistle, Houndstongue, and Purple loosestrife. These weeds have limited forage value for both livestock and wildlife and are aggressive in nature. Poison hemlock, houndstongue and Black henbane contain toxic properties that pose hazards to both humans and animals. Due to agricultural economic circumstance, cost of control, and limited labor, equipment, and herbicide knowledge, cooperators have agreed to pull their resources to work aggressively to eradicate small isolated areas. Larger infestations will be approached in segments with containment in mind. It is our hope to eventually eradicate them, replacing them with more desirable vegetation. Several areas have been selected for insect release and revegetation practices. Awareness and education play a large roll in identifying new invaders and assures that our management objectives are being met systematically and safely.

Summary of 2003 Projects

This year started out with a disappointing loss of funding for our Deep Creek Project; however, with the cooperative work of BLM, Twin Falls County and participants within this project we were able to monitor 12,970 acres and treat 107.6 acres. We hope for additional funding next year.

The Cottonwood Creek Project consists of rugged terrain and difficult creek bed drainage's. There were many hours of truck spraying, tractor spraying and four-wheeler work done in this area. The problem weeds are Russian knapweed and Hoary cress. The County, BLM, Forest Service and private participants monitored 25,560 acres and treated 335 acres. We are anticipating some re-vegetation work in the 2005 season.

We are so excited about the progress of the Duck Springs Project. The persistent work through the years is beginning to pay off with the re-vegetation of 110 acres with Siberian wheatgrass. The combined efforts of the County, BLM and all participants enabled us to treat 281 acres, mow 10 acres of Russian knapweed in a Tree Conservation area and monitor 12,298 acres.

Shoshone Basin CWMA

2003 Objectives

Awareness & Education

- ❖ Interview on KTFI regarding Weed Control & CWMA work in Twin Falls County
- ❖ Present noxious weed control and SBCWMA progress information to interest groups (Native Plant Society, Congressional Aides, Agri-Action, Murtaugh Elementary)
- ❖ Interview on KMVT regarding weed control
- ❖ Twin Falls County Fair information booth for noxious weeds and CWMA.

Inventory

- ❖ Participants to continue mapping infestations in the SBCWMA
- ❖ Work with BLM to assure mapping information they collect is usable at a county level

Management

- ❖ Deep Creek, Duck Springs, Cottonwood Creek Projects by treating Russian knapweed, Hoary cress and other priority weeds as warranted
- ❖ Conduct re-treatment as needed along Salmon Falls Canal project.
- ❖ BLM, Forest Service, and County to review and treat stock drive as needed.
- ❖ Re-seed 80 acres of infested lands into Siberian wheat grass. (We were able to re-seed 110 acres)

Resources

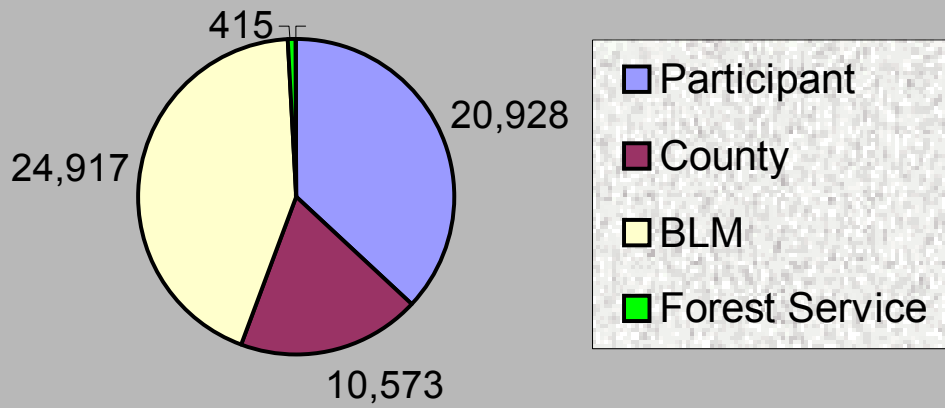
- ❖ Continued use of the vehicles and spray units owned by Twin Falls County, BLM, and private participants.
- ❖ Information resource providers are: University personnel, Regional Superintendents, Chemical Representatives, County Extension Agents.

Monitor & Evaluation

- ❖ Monitor 2001 insect releases on Diffuse knapweed in the Hollister area
- ❖ Photograph and review 2002 treatment areas
- ❖ Monitor and Evaluate 2002 treatment areas
- ❖ Compile year-end report

We are pleased to report that the group successfully completed the above listed objectives.

SBCWMA Contributions 2003



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR 2003

Alex Kunkel, Chairman
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Twin Falls County Weed Control
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Appendix II (required)

DUCK SPRINGS PROJECT

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Revegetation	Hoary cress Russian knapweed	110 acres
Biological releases	N/A	
Treated	HC / RK	272
	Rush skeletonweed	2
	Diffuse knapweed	9
Public Contacts	N/A	7 Public contacts
		Acres surveyed / Acres mapped
GPS/GIS mapping		12,140
	HC / RK	272
	Rush skeletonweed	2
	Diffuse knapweed	9

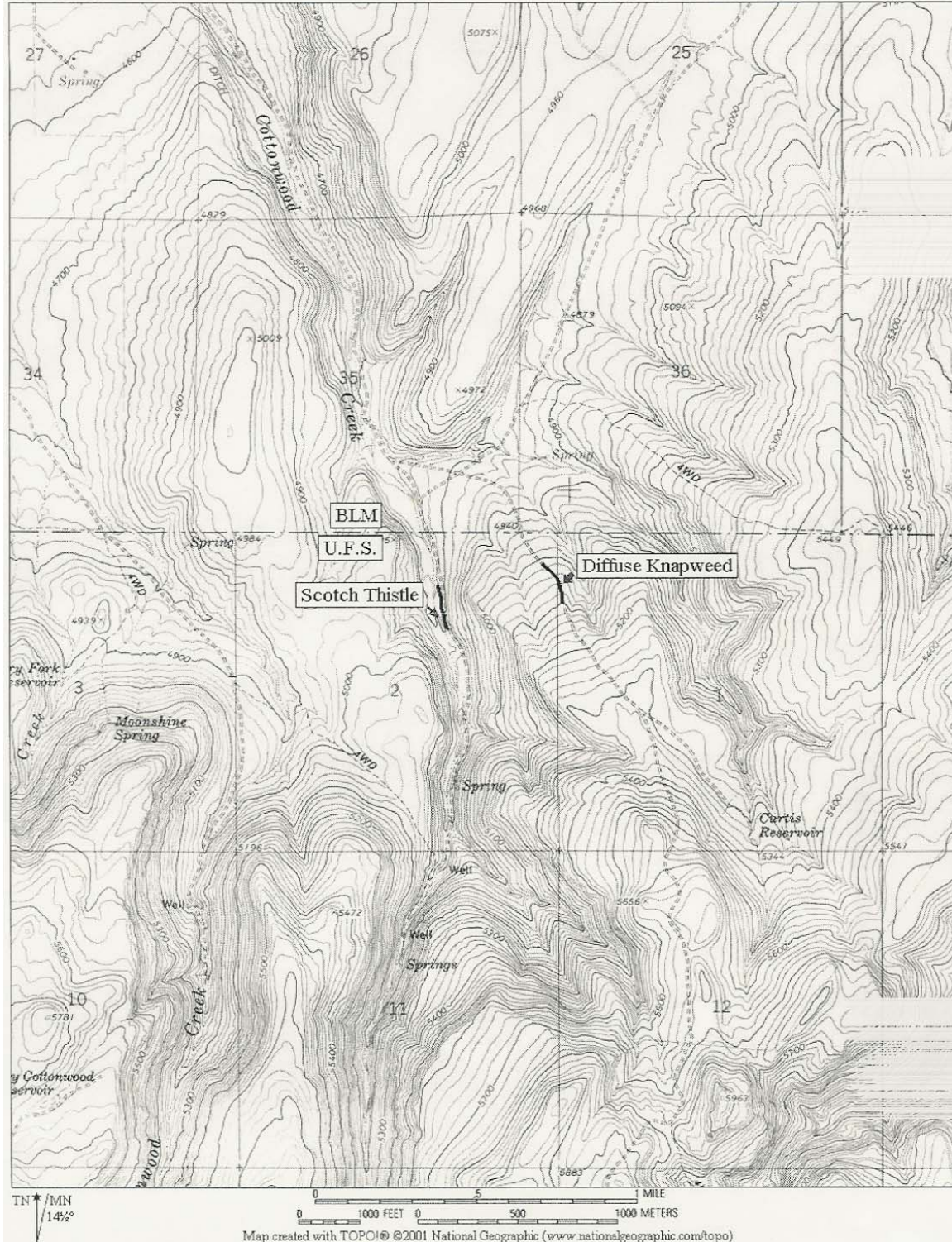
COTTONWOOD CREEK PROJECT

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Revegetation	N/A	N/A
Biological releases	Poison hemlock	Release date 1999
Treated	Hoary cress	48
	Russian knapweed	75
	Canada thistle	1
	Scotch thistle	5
	Diffuse knapweed	6
Public Contacts	N/A	7 public contacts
		Acres surveyed / Acres mapped
GPS/GIS mapping		25,560
	Hoary cress	48
	Russian knapweed	72
	Diffuse knapweed	6
	Canada thistle	1
	Scotch thistle	2

DEEP CREEK PROJECT

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Revegetation	N/A	
Biological releases	Canada thistle	3
Treated	Hoary cress	34
	Russian knapweed	237
	Diffuse knapweed	31
	Scotch thistle	1
	Canada thistle	11
Public Contacts	N/A	10 Public contacts
		Acres surveyed / Acres mapped
GPS/GIS mapping		12,970
	Hoary cress	28
	Russian knapweed	47
	Diffuse knapweed	31
	Scotch thistle	1
	Canada thistle	1

Sawtooth National Forest - Minidoka Ranger District



DUCK SPRINGS

Picture taken in 2000



Re-vegetation in 2003



Grass drill used to re-plant 110 acres



Berger Butte Spray Day 2003

(Deep Creek Project)



Nan Stanger with Twin Falls County



Burley BLM unloading their ATV's to help out with the project.